

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated October 4, 2004, the Examiner states that Claims 8-11 are pending and Claims 8-11 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the specification, the claims, and the abstract.

In the Office Action, Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Maenza et al. (US 5,494,782), and is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Yang et al. (US 6,409,902). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Krinke (US 5,997,709). Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krinke in view of Ueda et al. (US 4,537,732).

The Applicant previously argued that the references do not teach the step cutting savings offered by the methods recited in the claims. The previous Office Action indicated that this argument is not persuasive because, even though the prior art methods may use additional steps, the language used in the claims is open to additional steps.

The Applicant in the present amendment has amended the claims to replace the open transition phrase "comprising" with the closed transition phrase "consisting", thereby precluding the inclusion of additional steps. The Applicant does not consider this amendment to require the Examiner to make a further search or make further consideration to the claims.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this

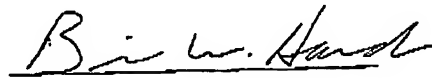
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application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

February 4, 2005

Date



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